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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 YEREVAN 000867

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STATE FOR INL/AEE, J. Campbell and INL/RM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [AFIN](#) [KJUS](#) [KCRM](#) [AM](#)

SUBJECT: LOA AMENDMENT NO.2 AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

REF: Schack/McKay email March 9, 2004

1. This is an Action Request for INL/AEE.

2. Post presents the final version of Amendment No. 2 to the Letter of Agreement on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Assistance between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Armenia in para 3 and requests the Bureau provide advice of allotment and cable authorization to sign the Amendment with the GOAM. The GOAM provided its consent in Diplomatic Note No. 16/03799 on 8 April 2004. Please note two changes to the text highlighted in bold: 1) as requested by MFA, addition to the text: "The Amendment will enter into force upon signature." 2) per Schack/McKay ref email: "...establishment of a forensic lab under the auspices of an Armenian Government entity, as agreed by the U.S. Government and the Armenian Government..."

3. BEGIN TEXT.

AMENDMENT TO THE LETTER OF AGREEMENT ON NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OF JUNE 11, 2001 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA

I. GENERAL

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Armenia jointly agree to modify and amend the Letter of Agreement between the U.S. Government and the Government of Armenia, signed June 11, 2001 in the following respect:

The U.S. Government will provide additional assistance to the Government of Armenia in the amount of \$2,158,000, including technical assistance and training contracted through USG agencies and equipment procured by the Department of State. Funds obligated by the U.S. Government through this Amendment are specified in the cover sheet and total \$1,558,000. Future funding for these projects is contingent upon the congressional authorization and appropriation of funds and approval by the Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law

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Enforcement Affairs.

The additional funding is provided for the following projects: curriculum development at the Armenian law enforcement training academies; forensic lab development; trafficking in persons; and a regional computer network.

Full project descriptions and project goals are described in Section III.

II. All other obligations, terms, and conditions contained in the Letter of Agreement dated June 11, 2001 shall remain applicable and in full force and effect. THE AMENDMENT WILL ENTER INTO FORCE UPON SIGNATURE.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS, PROJECT GOAL AND ACHIEVEMENT VERIFICATION

(1) Curriculum Development at Law Enforcement Training Academies--\$716,000

This project is designed to continue the modernization of the training academies and the incorporation of new curricula and training methodologies into law enforcement training programs.

Actions to be taken by the U.S. Government include providing training and technical advice on curricula development to the law enforcement training academies.

Actions to be taken by the Government of Armenia include providing access for the trainers and technical advisors to the academies and faculties, incorporating new curricula and courses into the academies and selecting appropriate participants to attend the training on a full time basis.

The project is envisioned as a multi-year initiative, contingent on satisfactory progress toward program goals and

availability of future funds.

Performance will be measured through:

- Incorporation of new and modified curricula into the training academies;
- Training of faculty to teach the new curricula and courses; and
- Utilization of the new skills and knowledge by law enforcement personnel in the field.

2) Forensic Lab Development Project--\$1,000,000

This project will continue the development of a modern forensic lab system in Armenia.

Actions to be taken by the U.S. Government': include: provision of technical assistance in areas of forensic science and laboratory management (quality assurance, budget and finance, human resources, etc.) to forensic lab managers, supervisors and examiners; design of a modern, independent forensic lab; and provision of forensic lab equipment and training in its use.

Actions to be taken by the Government of Armenia include: establishment of a forensic lab UNDER THE AUSPICES OF AN ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT ENTITY, AS AGREED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT, with the status of a non-profit organization with a separate line item in the 2004 national budget in accordance with Armenian legislation; transparent, competitive selection of appropriate lab cadre who will be available to receive the assistance and training provided by the program; create a charter for the lab with a description of usage procedures and users; provision of a building to house the lab; renovation of the lab building; expeditious entry of the equipment into Armenia; delivery of the equipment to the forensic lab; and ensuring that the equipment continues to be utilized for the intended purposes; ensuring continued access of U.S. Embassy representatives to the equipment for end use monitoring

The project is envisioned as a multi-year initiative. Provision of funding beyond the current fiscal year is conditioned upon satisfactory progress toward project goals and the availability of future funds.

Performance will be measured through:

- Establishment of a professionally managed and staffed independent forensic lab;
- Design and renovation of the lab building;
- Installation and proper use of the equipment;
- Use of the forensic equipment to analyze evidence associated with criminal activity; and,
- Presentation in courts of evidence analyzed by this lab.

(3) Trafficking in Persons Project--\$92,000

The goal of this project is to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons through activities focused on prevention of incidents and prosecution of perpetrators and the protection of victims.

Actions to be taken by the USG include expansion of program activities agreed through LOA Amendment 1 signed 14 April 2003 to include project activities directed at vulnerable children. The original program activities include:

- A public awareness campaign and sensitization of public officials, employees of foreign embassies, media and NGOs to trafficking related issues through seminars and workshops; -

- Assisting the Government of Armenia in updating legislation in line with current international policies and legislation related to counter-trafficking through 1) Legislation drafted in line with the UN Convention, 2) Facilitating the exchange of ideas between the media, women's organizations, NGOs, international organizations, and the Government, 3) International exchanges, and, 4) Training of law enforcement and judiciary in the issues related to trafficking;

- Protection and assistance to victims through 1) Combining preventive and prosecution-related measures with protection and assistance to victims, 2) Undertaking measures to protect the privacy of the victims of trafficking including legislative changes and 3) Return and integration support;

- Conducting research aimed at better defining the scope of the trafficking problem in Armenia.

Actions to be taken by the Government of Armenia include making resources available to the Interagency Commission on Human Trafficking Issues and further definition of their mandate to include Implementation of the National Plan of Action currently in draft form.

The planned life of this project is one year.

Performance will be measured through:

--Changes to legislation including criminal procedure amendments to improve Armenian law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute trafficking-related cases; -- Increased investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases; and

--Maintenance of Tier 2 status or higher on the U.S. Department of State's Global Trafficking in Persons Report.

(4) Regional Computer Network Project--\$350,000

This project will increase the ability of Armenian law enforcement to conduct timely investigations, assist in the development of a law enforcement database to increase information sharing between law enforcement agencies, improve Armenia's ability to access international criminal databases and shorten the time it takes the U.S. and Armenian governments to ascertain the whereabouts of suspected criminals.

Actions to be taken by the USG include: providing computer hardware and software and related equipment, including initial assistance to rent phone lines for Internet access and related phone tariffs not to exceed \$70,000 for a period of no more than 1 year for offices throughout Armenia, including 52 regional police precincts; providing technical advisors to assist in establishing the network and training trainers on computer and Internet literacy in the INL established computer classrooms at the law enforcement training academies; and English language training to improve the ability of U.S. and Armenian law enforcement to communicate directly.

Actions to be taken by the Government of Armenia include: providing appropriate technical and law enforcement personnel to receive the training and technical assistance; providing venues for local training and technical assistance; making proper use of the provided equipment; and facilitating access to the equipment by U.S. Government personnel for end use monitoring.

The planned life of this project is multi-year, with this phase expected to last one year. Provision of funding beyond the current fiscal year is conditioned upon satisfactory progress toward project goals and the availability of funds.

Performance will be measured through:

--Establishment of the regional computer network; -- Improvement in information sharing between Armenia law enforcement offices and with international law enforcement entities; and, --Increased apprehension of criminals.

IV. EVALUATION PLAN

Representatives of the U.S. Government and the Government of Armenia will meet at least once every three months to review progress towards achievement of the projects' goals. Progress will be evaluated in accordance with the measurements of success described above. Information to be considered in conducting these evaluations will include qualitative and quantitative data, including official records of arrests and convictions and seizures of contraband. A report will be prepared summarizing the results of these evaluations. These evaluations are in addition to ongoing monitoring of these programs and activities conducted by relevant Personnel of both governments.

Done at Yerevan, Armenia this day of (month) of (year). For the Government of Armenia

Title/name

For the Government of
United States of America

Ambassador
END TEXT.

ORDWAY